

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 7, 13-15, 18, 30-32, and 37-37. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A communication apparatus comprising:

a) a communication unit having different transfer rates and adapted to transmit a predetermined packet to destinations all destination apparatuses using at least one of the different transfer rates ~~until responses from all of the destinations are received~~; and

b) a control unit adapted to determine one of the different transfer rates as a maximum transfer rate between the communication apparatus and all of the ~~destinations, based on the responses transmitted from all of the destinations~~ destination apparatuses after responses to the predetermined packet are received from all of the destination apparatuses.

Claims 2 and 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit retransmits the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit transmits data to the ~~destinations~~ destination apparatuses at the maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit packetizes data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the ~~destinations~~ destination apparatus.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claims 8 and 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the communication unit conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claims 11 and 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the

predetermined packet includes a command that inquires of an ability of the destinations.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the communication apparatus.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID that indicates indicating a logical connection relationship between the communication apparatus and the destinations all of the destination apparatuses.

Claims 16 and 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for a communication apparatus that includes a communication unit having different transfer rates, comprising the steps of:

- a) transmitting a predetermined packet to destinations all of destination apparatuses using at least one of the different transfer rates until responses from all of the destinations are received; and
- b) determining a maximum transfer rate between the apparatus and all of the destinations, based on the responses transmitted from all of the destinations destination

apparatuses after responses to the predetermined packet are received from all of the destination apparatuses.

Claims 19-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of retransmitting the predetermined packet at a transfer rate lower than a previous transfer rate, if at least one response is absent.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting data to the destinations destination apparatuses at the maximum transfer rate after determining the maximum transfer rate, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of packetizing data into at least one packet and broadcasts each packet to the destination apparatuses.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of packetizing data into at least one packet and broadcasting each packet to the destinations destination apparatuses.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein an amount of data packetized in a packet is variable, based on the maximum transfer rate.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet is transmitted in a communication that conforms to an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a command that inquires [[of]] about an ability of the ~~destinations~~ destination apparatuses.

Claim 36 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes information about an ability of the communication apparatus.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the predetermined packet includes a connection ID indicating a logical connection relationship between the communication apparatus and the ~~destinations~~ all of the destination apparatuses.

Claim 38 (previously presented): An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is

adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.

Claim 39 (previously presented): A method according to Claim 18, wherein the communication unit has an isochronous transfer mode and an asynchronous transfer mode, and is adapted to transmit the predetermined packet to all of the destinations using the asynchronous transfer mode.